

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 639

SENATE BILL NO. 3149

By Black, Ketron, Marrero

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2912

By Maggart, Sontany, West, Kernell, Richardson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, Chapter 17, relative to the euthanasia of non-livestock animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-17-303, is amended by deleting subsection (b) and substituting instead the following:

(b) A non-livestock animal may be tranquilized with an approved and humane substance before any form of euthanasia involving a lethal injection is performed but the animal must be tranquilized if the euthanasia is performed by the method described in subsection (a)(3).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 44-17-302, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following new subsection (b):

(b) The provisions of this part shall apply to any licensed veterinarian, Tennessee veterinarian medical technician, employee, volunteer, whether compensated or otherwise, or any other person acting as an agent on behalf of a public or private agency, animal shelter or other facility operated for the collection, care and/or euthanasia of stray, neglected, abandoned or unwanted non-livestock animals.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 44, Chapter 17, Part 3, is amended by adding the following new section:

Section 44-17-304.

(a) Before any public or private agency, animal shelter or other facility operated for the collection, care and/or euthanasia of stray, neglected, abandoned or unwanted non-livestock animals euthanizes a non-livestock animal that the facility knows or should know, by identification or vaccination tags, personal knowledge or otherwise, has an owner, the facility shall be required to hold the animal for at least three (3) full business days from the time it is brought to the facility before such animal may be euthanized.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply where an emergency situation exists that requires the immediate euthanasia of an injured, dangerous or severely diseased non-livestock animal.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: February 28, 2008



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 18th day of March 2008



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR